The nearly 20,000 undergrads who grace this campus are all members of the McMaster Students Union and as a collective we form the single largest organization on this campus. We are one of the biggest alliances in the city of Hamilton, yet we lack a cohesive understanding of this important fact. As students, we tend segregate ourselves along many different and divergent lines; faculty/program, year of study, club affiliation and numerous other social stratifications. I make this point because I feel it is necessary for students of McMaster University to take ownership of your union. Cast off the self-imposed restrictions, reservations and excuses you place on yourself and realize that the MSU exists solely because you exist. What do you want from your union.

The nature of the body politic is that it is only as valuable as its willing participants. When individuals lobby for a cause they believe in, they are not only making a political statement, but exerting a right to be part of something bigger; to instigate agency in a way that contributes to a collective. Every single undergraduate student at this university is a part of the MSU, and every individual has a right to contribute to the system. Within that right however is a choice, a choice to get involved, to choose to take your personal agency and wield it in a positive way. It is one thing to criticize the lack of commonality in the organization - debate is essential - but it is another thing entirely to abstain from the process of change and proceed to sour the positive virtues of the collective. The responsibility of our alliance will sit around and bully the individuals within the organization who are willing to do the work, willing to try to make a difference, without any attempt to facilitate change or contribute positively to the discussion.

Our campus seems to have forgotten that undergrads are not led by four guys in MUSC 201, in fact, it’s quite the opposite. The four guys in MUSC 201 - and 31 other people in Gilmour Hall 111 every other Sunday night - are led by undergrads. The destiny of the good ship MSU relies on the will of students to engage with their education and engage with the structures in place that allocate funds to 35 MSU student services.

Undergraduate campuses are the ideal setting for cultivating change, and the MSU acts as a pivotal player in that process. It’s the middle-ground between academic life and the real world, and there is so much potential in this organization to be better, to learn from mistakes of past leaders and to wholly represent its members. Challenge your faculty reps on the SRA to represent you, challenge me to address the issues that are truly important to you. I guarantee I will be up for that challenge, are you?

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President’s Page

WHO IS THE MSU? IN A WORD - YOU
Recognize yourself as a member of this union and its potential is endless

Despite how this page may often seem, the McMaster Students Union is not the Board of Directors who you see below. Nor is the MSU the 35 undergraduate student representatives who comprise the Student Representative Assembly (SRA). Moreover, the MSU is much more than a plethora of businesses and services designed to aid in student life.

Undergrad perspective on the labour dispute

The Board of Directors express their thoughts on the current labour disruption and call on both parties to resolve the dispute immediately